

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
COMMERCE  
NEWS**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20230

**ECONOMICS  
AND  
STATISTICS  
ADMINISTRATION**

**BUREAU OF THE  
CENSUS**

Bureau of the Census  
For Data - (301) 457-4673  
For Questions - Frances Porter or Lee Wentela  
(301) 457-4804 or (301) 457-4832  
M3-1(99)-09

For Release 8:30 A.M. EDT  
October 27, 1999  
CB99-210

**ADVANCE REPORT ON DURABLE GOODS MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS AND ORDERS**  
September 1999

(All figures in text below are in seasonally adjusted current dollars)

**NEW ORDERS** New orders for manufactured durable goods in September decreased \$2.7 billion or 1.3 percent to \$204.9 billion, the Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census reported today. This follows a 1.0 percent August increase and is the first decrease since April. Excluding transportation, new orders decreased 0.5 percent. Year-to-date, new orders are 7.0 percent above the same period a year ago; new orders for the third quarter are 5.0 percent above the second quarter.

Transportation equipment, led by aircraft and parts and motor vehicles and parts, had the largest decrease, \$1.9 billion or 3.9 percent to \$47.1 billion. This is the first decrease since April. Primary metals decreased \$0.1 billion or 0.8 percent to \$15.5 billion. Industrial machinery and equipment increased \$0.2 billion or 0.4 percent to \$39.6 billion. Electronic and other electrical equipment, up four consecutive months, increased \$0.1 billion or 0.4 percent to \$38.7 billion.

**SHIPMENTS** Shipments of durable goods in September decreased \$3.9 billion or 1.9 percent to \$202.1 billion, following a 1.4 percent August increase. This is the first decrease since April. Year-to-date, shipments are 6.4 percent above the same period a year ago; shipments for the third quarter are 2.3 percent above the second quarter.

Transportation equipment, led by aircraft and parts and motor vehicles and parts, had the largest decrease, \$2.5 billion or 4.9 percent to \$48.5 billion. This is the largest decrease since June 1998. Industrial machinery and equipment decreased \$0.8 billion or 2.0 percent to \$38.2 billion. This is the largest decrease since August 1998. Electronic and other electrical equipment decreased \$0.2 billion or 0.5 percent to \$35.2 billion. Primary metals, up five consecutive months, increased \$0.1 billion or 0.7 percent to \$15.3 billion.

**UNFILLED ORDERS** Unfilled orders for durable goods in September increased \$2.8 billion or 0.6 percent to \$500.5 billion, following a 0.3 percent August increase. Electronic and other electrical equipment, up ten consecutive months, had the largest increase, \$3.5 billion or 4.9 percent to \$75.5 billion. This is the largest increase since August 1997. Industrial machinery and equipment, up nine of the last ten months, increased \$1.4 billion or 1.7 percent to \$80.8 billion. Primary metals, up eight consecutive months, increased \$0.2 billion or 0.7 percent to \$32.2 billion. Transportation equipment, down fifteen of the last seventeen months, decreased \$1.5 billion or 0.7 percent to \$226.6 billion.

**CAPITAL GOODS INDUSTRIES, DEFENSE** New orders in September increased \$0.1 billion or 1.4 percent to \$5.0 billion. Shipments decreased \$0.1 billion or 1.9 percent to \$6.3 billion. Unfilled orders decreased \$1.4 billion or 1.5 percent to \$90.9 billion. This is the sixth consecutive decrease.

**CAPITAL GOODS INDUSTRIES, NONDEFENSE** New orders in September decreased \$0.1 billion or 0.2 percent to \$56.7 billion. Shipments decreased \$2.7 billion or 4.6 percent to \$55.0 billion. This is the largest decrease since January 1996. Unfilled orders, up for the first time since February, increased \$1.7 billion or 0.7 percent to \$252.4 billion. Excluding aircraft and parts, new orders increased \$1.5 billion or 3.0 percent to \$49.6 billion; shipments decreased \$0.5 billion or 1.1 percent to \$47.7 billion; and unfilled orders, up for the first time since April, increased \$1.8 billion or 1.7 percent to \$111.6 billion.

**REVISED AUGUST DATA** Revised seasonally adjusted August figures for all manufacturing industries are: shipments, \$361.8 billion (revised from \$362.3 billion); new orders, \$364.3 billion (revised from \$364.7 billion); unfilled orders, \$523.1 billion (unrevised from \$523.1 billion); and total inventories, \$464.4 billion (revised from \$464.6 billion).

**Our internet site address is: <http://www.census.gov/indicator/www/m3>**

Table 1. **DURABLE GOODS MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS AND ORDERS**  
(Millions of dollars)

Item	Seasonally adjusted						Not seasonally adjusted <sup>1</sup>			
	Monthly			Percent Change			Monthly			Percent change Sept.99/98
	Sept. 1999 <sup>2</sup>	Aug. 1999 <sup>2</sup>	July 1999	Aug.- Sept. <sup>2</sup>	July- Aug. <sup>1</sup>	June- July	Sept. 1999 <sup>2</sup>	Aug. 1999 <sup>2</sup>	Sept. 1998	
<b>DURABLE GOODS</b>										
<b>Total :</b>										
Shipments .....	202,141	206,033	203,268	-1.9	+1.4	+1.1	218,946	203,665	209,036	+4.7
New orders .....	204,891	207,619	205,532	-1.3	+1.0	+4.3	216,813	204,413	205,297	+5.6
Unfilled orders .....	500,488	497,738	496,152	+0.6	+0.3	+0.5	496,211	498,344	501,112	-1.0
<b>Excluding defense :</b>										
Shipments .....	195,795	199,561	196,684	-1.9	+1.5	+1.0	212,230	197,447	201,943	+5.1
New orders .....	199,905	202,702	199,056	-1.4	+1.8	+3.7	211,859	200,880	197,768	+7.1
Unfilled orders .....	409,605	405,495	402,354	+1.0	+0.8	+0.6	406,954	407,325	405,670	+0.3
<b>With unfilled orders :</b>										
Shipments .....	165,645	169,193	166,506	-2.1	+1.6	+1.6	180,625	165,975	173,973	+3.8
New orders .....	168,395	170,779	168,770	-1.4	+1.2	+5.5	178,492	166,723	170,234	+4.9
<b>Primary metals :</b>										
Shipments .....	15,303	15,201	14,903	+0.7	+2.0	+1.5	15,847	15,298	15,402	+2.9
New orders .....	15,527	15,659	15,730	-0.8	-0.5	+3.4	15,327	15,558	13,789	+11.2
Unfilled orders .....	32,178	31,954	31,496	+0.7	+1.5	+2.7	31,284	31,804	29,662	+5.5
<b>Industrial machinery and equipment:</b>										
Shipments .....	38,231	38,998	39,434	-2.0	-1.1	+5.7	42,473	36,421	40,690	+4.4
New orders .....	39,589	39,426	40,257	+0.4	-2.1	+10.5	43,894	36,772	43,032	+2.0
Unfilled orders .....	80,845	79,487	79,059	+1.7	+0.5	+1.1	80,290	78,869	74,847	+7.3
<b>Electronic and other electrical equipment :</b>										
Shipments .....	35,160	35,323	35,373	-0.5	-0.1	+3.4	39,797	34,226	36,667	+8.5
New orders .....	38,693	38,553	37,976	+0.4	+1.5	+8.0	40,396	37,869	34,517	+17.0
Unfilled orders .....	75,511	71,978	68,748	+4.9	+4.7	+3.9	74,269	73,670	57,546	+29.1
<b>Transportation equipment :</b>										
Shipments .....	48,543	51,029	48,816	-4.9	+4.5	-1.9	51,375	51,109	49,441	+3.9
New orders .....	47,059	48,958	47,235	-3.9	+3.6	+2.1	49,411	48,206	47,885	+3.2
Unfilled orders .....	226,609	228,093	230,164	-0.7	-0.9	-0.7	225,338	227,302	250,126	-9.9
<b>CAPITAL GOODS INDUSTRIES<sup>3</sup></b>										
<b>Total :</b>										
Shipments .....	61,339	64,120	62,679	-4.3	+2.3	+3.2	68,560	60,122	67,036	+2.3
New orders .....	61,694	61,724	61,506	0.0	+0.4	+9.5	68,421	56,482	67,591	+1.2
Unfilled orders .....	343,292	342,937	345,333	+0.1	-0.7	-0.3	341,056	341,195	361,342	-5.6
<b>Nondefense :</b>										
Shipments .....	54,993	57,648	56,095	-4.6	+2.8	+3.0	61,844	53,904	59,943	+3.2
New orders .....	56,708	56,807	55,030	-0.2	+3.2	+8.0	63,467	52,949	60,062	+5.7
Unfilled orders .....	252,409	250,694	251,535	+0.7	-0.3	-0.4	251,799	250,176	265,900	-5.3
<b>Excluding aircraft and parts :</b>										
Shipments .....	47,732	48,277	48,774	-1.1	-1.0	+5.0	54,145	45,110	50,929	+6.3
New orders .....	49,580	48,128	48,763	+3.0	-1.3	+9.5	55,901	44,847	53,569	+4.4
Unfilled orders .....	111,595	109,747	109,896	+1.7	-0.1	0.0	110,985	109,229	107,217	+3.5
<b>Defense :</b>										
Shipments .....	6,346	6,472	6,584	-1.9	-1.7	+4.9	6,716	6,218	7,093	-5.3
New orders .....	4,986	4,917	6,476	+1.4	-24.1	+24.3	4,954	3,533	7,529	-34.2
Unfilled orders .....	90,883	92,243	93,798	-1.5	-1.7	-0.1	89,257	91,019	95,442	-6.5

(NA) Not available. <sup>1</sup> Revised.

<sup>1</sup> Shipments and new orders are the totals for the period and are adjusted for trading-day and calendar-month variations; unfilled orders are as of the end of the period and are not adjusted for trading-day or calendar-month variations.

<sup>2</sup> Based on advance sample. Estimates of manufacturers' shipments, inventories, and orders are subject to survey error and revision. One major component of survey error is nonsampling error, which includes errors of coverage, response and nonreporting. Since the survey panel is not a probability sample, estimates of sampling error cannot be calculated. Further details on survey design, methodology, and data limitations are contained in our most recent annual benchmark publication, Current Industrial Reports: M3-1(96), "Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders: 1987-1996."

<sup>3</sup> The Capital Goods Industries include Nondefense: ordnance and accessories, steam engines and turbines, internal combustion engines, construction mining and material handling equipment, metalworking machinery, special industry machinery, general industrial machinery, computer and office equipment, refrigeration, heating and service industry machinery, electrical transmission and distribution equipment, electrical industrial apparatus, communication equipment, complete aircraft, missiles, and space vehicles; aircraft missiles, and space vehicle engines and parts, ships and tank components, railroad equipment, and search and navigation equipment.

Defense capital goods include: ordnance, communication equipment, aircraft, missiles, space vehicles, and parts, ships, tanks and tank components, search and navigation equipment.

Table 2. **AVERAGE REVISIONS TO PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED MONTHLY PERCENT CHANGES**  
(Based on seasonally adjusted data)

Industry	Shipments			New Orders			Unfilled Orders		
	Year ago Sept. 1998	Sept. 1994-1998	Sept. 1998- Aug. 1999	Year ago Sept. 1998	Sept. 1994-1998	Sept. 1998- Aug. 1999	Year ago Sept. 1998	Sept. 1994-1998	Sept. 1998- Aug. 1999
	Durable goods .....	0.7	0.3	0.8	0.4	0.3	2.6	0.1	0.1
Primary metals .....	0.6	0.3	1.1	0.8	1.1	2.5	0.1	0.4	0.9
Industrial machinery and equipment .....	1.0	0.9	1.6	0.2	0.9	3.0	0.7	0.2	0.9
Electronic and other electrical equipment .....	1.0	0.4	1.4	0.4	0.7	4.0	0.3	0.4	0.9
Transportation equipment .....	1.0	0.8	2.9	1.0	1.3	7.1	0.0	0.1	0.6
Nondefense capital goods .....	1.6	0.8	2.0	0.3	1.0	4.4	0.3	0.2	0.5
Defense capital goods .....	2.2	1.5	2.8	2.0	5.1	29.7	0.2	0.1	1.1

Note: The revisions are the differences between the month-to-month percent changes of the advance and final estimates. The monthly averages are the simple averages of the differences, without regard to sign, for the months specified.